## **ABSTRACT**

The present invention provides a new method for the early diagnosis of CNS damage in an individual, said CNS damage being caused by space-occupying lesions of the CNS, by invasion or metastasis of the CNS, by organisms, by anoxia or ischemia, by chemical agents, by physical agents, or by a combination of these mechanisms. This new method comprises the step of determining and/or quantifying the level of tau in said individual and comparing it to the level of tau in control healthy individuals.